



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Top Two Policy Priorities Presented to the Health and Human Service Committee of the County Council October 22, 2018

Presenter: Ms. Kirsten Andersen, Chair

Overview:

The Commission on Children and Youth (CCY) promotes the well-being of Montgomery County's children, youth, and families so that all young people may realize their full potential and become contributing, productive adults. We do this by supporting policy and budget decisions that promote the safety and well-being of children and youth, and by working so that they have access to successful futures.

2018-2019 Commission on Children and Youth Priorities

The Commission will advance its mission in FY 19 through a focus on two priorities:

Priority 1:

In today's environment, our students experience stress from a variety of sources whether its due to poverty, school or home environment, cultural expectations or other external or internal sources. The Commission wants to explore ways to promote a positive approach to mental health and wellbeing that is accessible to a wide variety of the community.

Priority 2:

The Montgomery County Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution focused on the safety of students and staff. Similarly, the State of Maryland passed the *Safe to Learn Act* in 2018. The Commission is concerned about a) balancing psychological and physical safety in Montgomery County schools, and b) providing a safe environment for students during non-instructional hours, including after school activities on campus. The Commission will examine current initiatives, supports, and services in order to identify gaps, opportunities, and recommendations.

Additionally, the Commission is hosting its ***Youth Having a Voice*** roundtable event on **Thursday, February 7, 2019** at 6:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building. This will mark the 12th year the Commission has hosted this gathering of teens from across the County to discuss issues that are important in their lives. Not only do youth have the opportunity to speak out, but adults – members of the County Council, Board of Education, HHS senior leadership and others – have the chance to hear, learn, and act on the concerns of the youth.

The Commission is committed to its mission and appreciates your support in our efforts. We look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to inform us about how we may best support your efforts and partner to benefit the County's children and youth.